Listing of the Claims:

Below is a listing of all claims using a strikethrough and underlining to show changes.

1. (previously presented) A method for altering a password stored in a secure electronic
5   device, comprising the steps of

concatenating one or more scan chains to create a storage element;

connecting the storage element to a comparator within an electronic circuit
wherein an output of the comparator enables a system component;

receiving a password from a user which becomes an original security id code;

10   configuring one or more said scan chains to customize the storage element which
represents said original security id code by blowing electronic fuses; and

writing an update code over the original security id code to create a new security
id code, whereby the new security id code is an OR-function product of the original
security id code and the update code.

15

2. (original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the scan chains are composed of
latches or registers and are accessible externally via one or more serial inputs or outputs.

3. (previously presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the scan chains are
20   sufficiently long in order to represent passwords of variable lengths and to contain a
security id code.

4. (cancelled)

25   5. (original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the electronic fuses are blown if the
current security code id is provided to enable the securing process to occur.

6. (original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the password is compared by the
comparator to contents of the storage element.

30

7. (original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the password is validated for size limits and character content.

8. (original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the storage element is a plurality of storage elements.

9. (original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the comparator is a plurality of comparators.

10. (currently amended) A method for securing an electronic device, comprising the steps of:

concatenating one or more scan chains to create a storage element said storage element configured by electronic fuses to represent a system security id code;

connecting the storage element to a comparator within an electronic circuit wherein the output of the comparator enables a system component;

receiving a password from a user;

providing the password to the comparator; and

comparing the password to the system security id code wherein the comparator output enables a system component essential for device operation; wherein the system component comprises one or more of the following:

a) a scan chain required for operation;

b) a phase lock loop required for operation; and

c) a system clock or clock distribution tree required for operation.

11. (original) A method according to claim 10, wherein the scan chains are composed of latches or registers and is accessible externally via one or more serial inputs or outputs.

12. (previously presented) A method according to claim 10, wherein the scan chains are sufficiently long in order to represent passwords of variable lengths and to contain a security id code.

13. (original) A method according to claim 10, wherein the security id code is not alterable and cannot be read from the storage elements except by the comparator.

14. (original) A method according to claim 10, wherein the password is compared by the comparator to the contents of the storage element.

15. (original) A method according to claim 10, wherein the password is validated for size limits and character content.

16. (original) A method according to claim 10, wherein the storage elements are a plurality of storage elements.

17. (original) A method according to claim 10, wherein the comparator is a plurality of comparators.

18. (previously presented) A secure electronic device with an alterable, fuse-encoded password, comprising:

a scan chain which is configured using electronic fuses to represent an original security id code;

a comparator that compares a password entered by a system user to the original security id code;

an output of the comparator which can enable a electronic component or electronic device; and

a fuse programmer for creating a new security id code by programming the fuses according to an update code, wherein the new security id code is an OR-function product of the original security id code and the update code.

19. (original) An integrated security device as recited in claim 18 wherein the scan chain is a plurality of scan chains.

20. (original) An integrated security device as recited in claim 18 wherein the comparator is a plurality of comparators.